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Panchayati Raj

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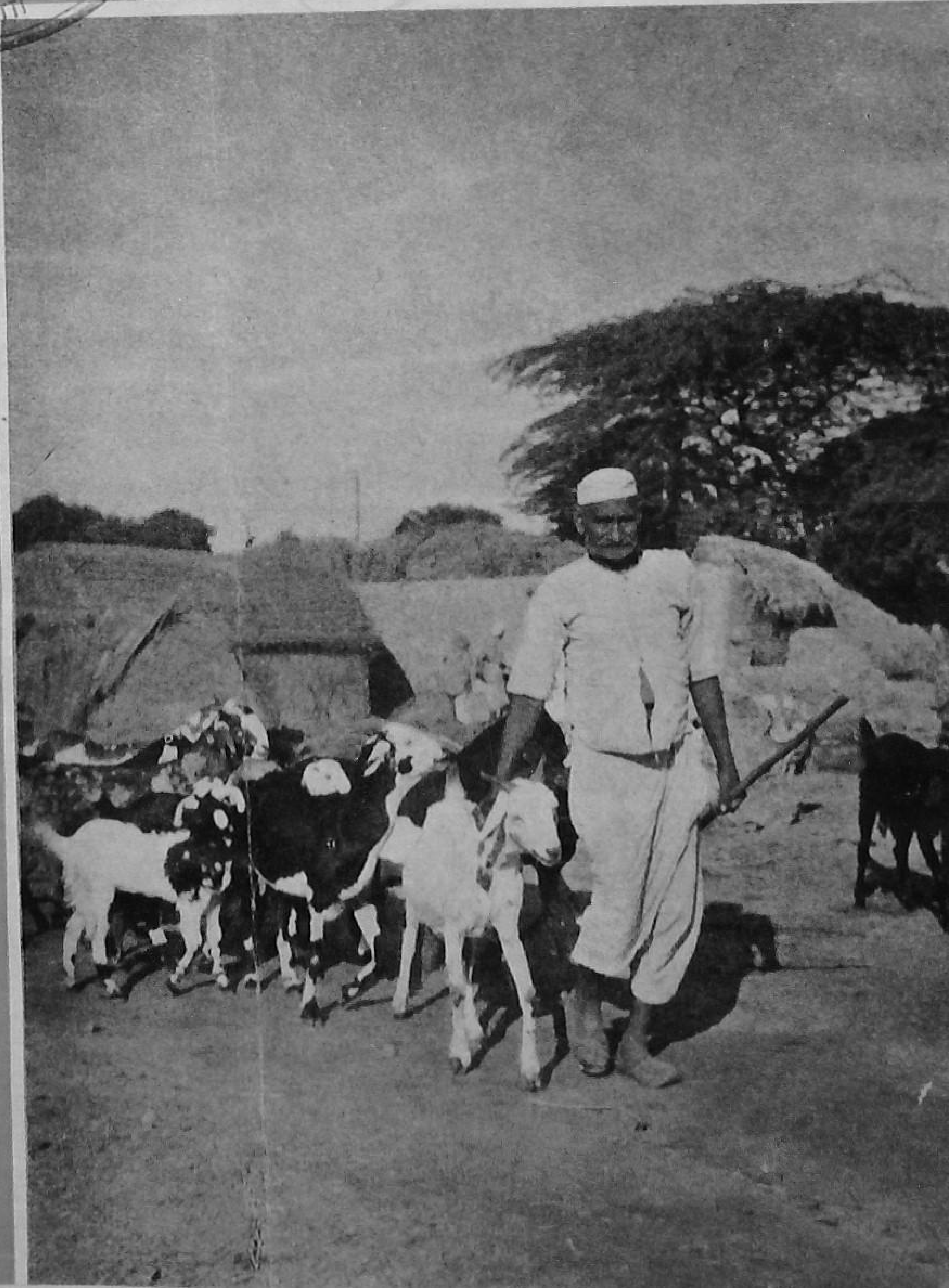

...ri Dharam Singh, a seventy ...ar old shepherd of Shahdara ...ar Delhi who donated Rs. 1,470, ...his life's savings to the National ...efence Fund. (For story please ... inside)

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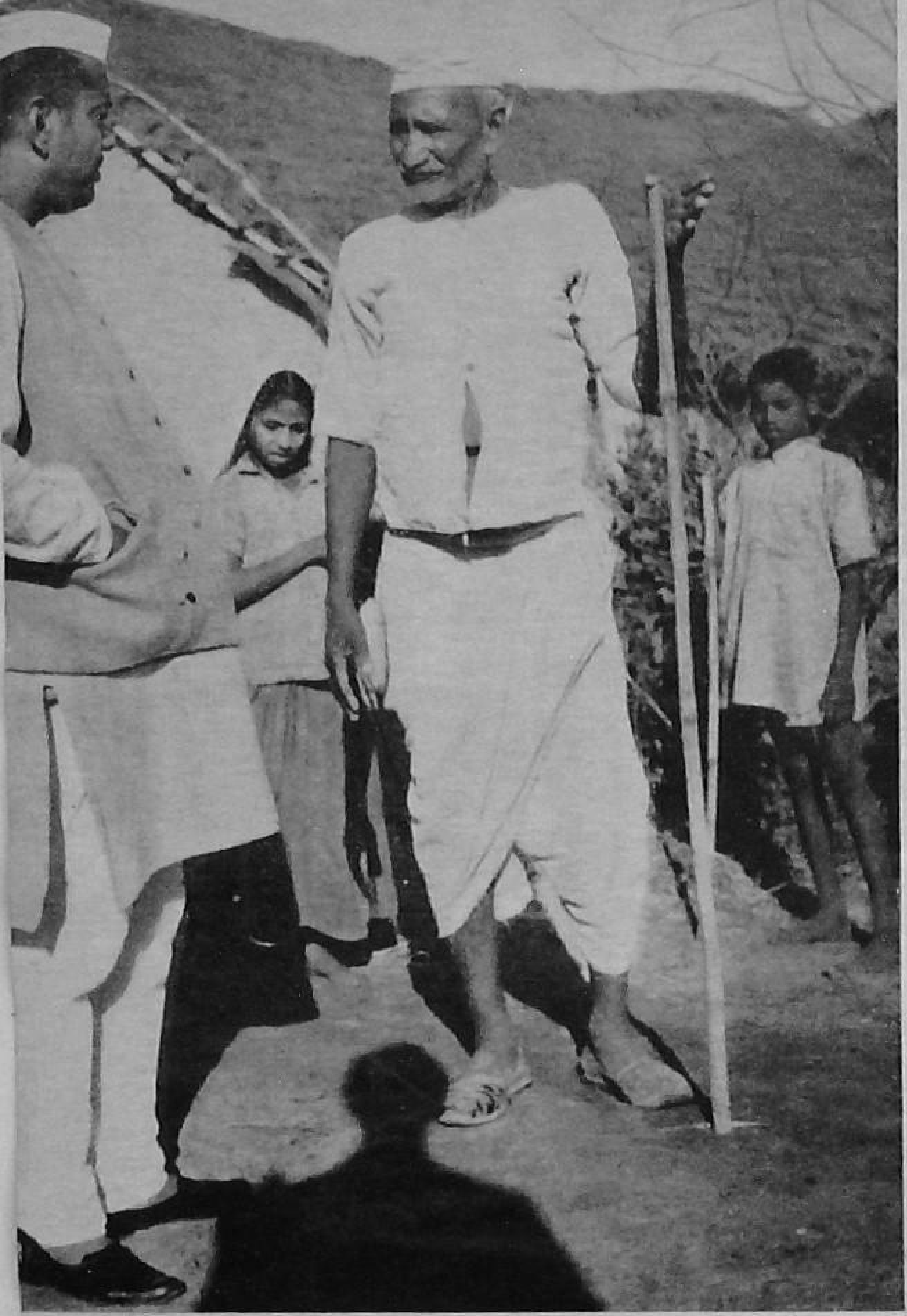
SHEPHERD GIVES LIFE'S SAVINGS TO THE DEFENCE FUND



Shri Dharam Singh is having a chat with his trusted friend Shri Pran Nath Sarvaria. The latter guided him as to where he could deposit the money for the National Defence Fund.

Shri Dharam Singh is enjoying a Hookah. His grand children and wife are also seen in the picture.

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THE PLEDGE*

THIS..........*notes with deep regret that, in spite of the uniform gestures of goodwill and friendship by India towards the People's Government of China on the basis of recognition of each other's independence, non-aggression and non-interference, and peaceful co-existence, China has betrayed this goodwill and friendship and the principles of Panchsheel which had been agreed to between the two countries and has committed aggression and initiated a massive invasion of India by her armed forces.*

THIS..........*places on record its high appreciation of the valiant struggle of men and officers of our armed forces while defending our frontiers and pays its respectful homage to the martyrs who have laid down their lives in defending the honour and integrity of our Motherland.*

THIS........*also records its profound appreciation of the wonderful and spontaneous response of the people of India to the emergency and the crisis that has resulted from China's invasion of India. It notes with deep gratitude this mighty upsurge amongst all sections of our people for harnessing all our resources towards the organisation of an all-out effort to meet this grave national emergency. The flame of liberty and sacrifice has been kindled anew and a fresh dedication has taken place to the cause of India's freedom and integrity.*

THIS........*gratefully acknowledges the sympathy and the moral and material support received from a large number of friendly countries in this grim hour of our struggle against aggression and invasion.*

WITH *hope and faith, this........affirms the firm resolve of the people to drive out the aggressor from the sacred soil of India, however long and hard the struggle may be.*

TO THIS *end, this........pledges the mobilisation of all its resources, both human and material, as its contribution to the national effort.*

Jai Hind!

---

*The above pledge would be taken by every Gram Sabha on 26th January, 1963 when the Prime Minister launches the scheme of VILLAGE OLUNTEER FORCE throughout the country.

VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FORCE

The need today is the total mobilisation of both human and material resources for the Defence Effort. In the rural areas this mobilisation is proposed to be achieved through a Village Volunteer Force in every village which will be formed round Gram Sahayaks and Youth Clubs and will consist of all the able-bodied adults in the village who volunteer to join it. It will carry out the three-fold programme of production, mass education and village defence. It will be the responsibility of the Panchayati Raj Institutions to organise the Village Volunteer Force and a Defence Labour Bank in every village as also to formulate specific programmes for implementation by the Village Volunteer Force. The scheme will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister on the Republic Day. On and before that date, the Panchayati Raj Institutions at the various levels viz. the Zila Parishads, Panchayat Samitis, Panchayats and Gaon Sabhas are expected to carry out certain allotted tasks in order that the scheme is launched properly.—Editor.

The Village Volunteer Force will have a three-fold programme: production, mass education and village defence. A strong agricultural base is the first requisite of National Defence. It is necessary to launch a nation-wide movement to intensify the drive for agricultural production through village production plans in every village to enable millions of our peasants to participate fully in the Defence Effort.

PRODUCTION

There will be a task force on production which will concentrate on production and building up of local community assets like development of Panchayat lands, compost, vegetables and fruit cultivation, fuel plantation, pisciculture, village tanks and other rural works. It will assume special responsibility for the realisation of the increased targets in regard to dry farming (20 to 50 million acres), soil conservation (11 to 16 million acres), minor irrigation (12 to over 19 million acres) and other special programmes for increased agricultural production. In those areas where there is underutilisation of irrigation potential for want of field channels, the national objective is to complete their excavation within the shortest possible time. The various programmes will find a place in the village production plan. Every village will make its major contribution to the Defence Effort by preparing and implementing the plan.

The programme will include the strengthening of the local village co-operative by enrolling more members and increasing its resources, thereby enabling it to provide adequate credit, supplies and services to its members for implementation of the village production plan. It will also cover the promotion of marketing of produce through co-operatives in order to prevent any distress or panic sales.

An essential part of the programme will be the planned utilisation of the labour pool in the "Defence Labour Bank" based on the donation of free labour at the minimum rate of one day per month from every able-bodied adult or monetary contribution in lieu. This represents the minimum. In the case of landless labourers, any excess over this minimum will be paid for at the local rates. The Panchayat will make every effort to get labour contributions from groups of people for continuous periods of ten days or more and such groups will be specially directed to the completion of selected programmes. In the present context it will be possible for Panchayats to raise such donations of labour on a voluntary basis. Provisions conferring statutory powers on Village Panchayats to levy labour tax also exist in some States.

MASS EDUCATION

The programme will be concerned mainly with the dissemination of correct information through various media, effective use of publicity materials and other literature, prevention of spread of rumours and the maintenance of morale.

VILLAGE DEFENCE

The members of the Village Defence Force under the Home Ministry's scheme of civil defence will look after this programme, covering watch and ward duties, fire prevention, first-aid, safeguarding of lines of communications, etc.

The Youth Club and the Mahila Mandal will form an integral part of the Village Volunteer Force. Youth Clubs will be organised in every village where they do not already exist. The Village Volunteer Force will have a Women's Wing formed round the Mahila Mandals which will be promoted in every village for looking after the special activities of women, such as promotion of savings, knitting, assistance to the service co-operatives and fair price shops in the distribution of consumer articles, etc. This Wing will also help the Panchayat in looking after the welfare of the families of jawans.

The Village Volunteer Force will have a common programme for all its members relating to physical training, drill, etc. It will generate in the rural masses a sense of discipline and of participation in the Defence Effort.

ORGANISATION

PANCHAYAT LEVEL: The Panchayat will organise and guide the Village Volunteer Force. A Chief (Dalapati) will be in charge of this Force. He will be selected by the Panchayat. A common badge, bearing a simple insignia for the entire country may be prescribed for the members of the Village Volunteer Force. The cost of the badge will be borne by the Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti and the Panchayat.

To supervise and guide the Village Volunteer Force, the Panchayat will constitute itself into an Emergency Committee with the Sarpanch as its Chairman and the Dalapati as the Secretary.

The Panchayat will be the common agency for promoting and implementing all schemes connected with the Defence Effort at the village level.

BLOCK LEVEL: The Block which is the accepted unit of planning and development will, in the new context, assume an expanded responsibility for all the activities connected with the Defence Effort. It will thus become the area unit and the common agent for total mobilisation, co-ordination and supervision.

For providing an effective link between the working of the Village Volunteer Force in different Panchayats, a Committee of Dalapatis—say one per V.L.W's circle—will be constituted at the block level. Dalapatis of each V.L.W's. circle will nominate their representative from amongst themselves. The Pradhan will be the Chairman of this Committee and the S.E.O./ Panchayat Extension Officer the Secretary. The members of the Committee will choose from amongst themselves, a Vice-Chairman.

In order to give an impetus to this new programme and to guide, supervise and coordinate the activities of the Village Volunteer Force in the Panchayats, a special Committee will be set up by each Panchayat Samiti. This Committee will have special responsibility for the prompt distribution among constituent Panchayats of literature, newsletters, instructions, etc. and dissemination of correct information relating to the Defence Effort. The Pradhan will be the Chairman and the B.D.O. the Secretary of the Committee. The Chairman of the Production, Education and Administration Committees of the Samiti and its women members, the Vice-Chairman of the Dalpatis' Committee, representatives of the Home Guards, T.A., A.C.C., N.C.C., Bharat Scouts and Guides, Welfare organisations, etc. will be included in this Committee. For effective liaison with the Citizens' Committee at the district level, local members of this Committee may also be included in the Special Committee.

DISTRICT LEVEL: The Zila Parishad will assume special responsibility for effective co-ordination and review-

ing the progress of work of the Village Volunteer Force. Within the national objectives set in regard to specific programmes, the Zila Parishad will ensure that the tasks to be performed by the Block Samiti, the Panchayat and by the Village Volunteer Force, are clearly laid down, time schedules fixed as necessary and adequate supervision provided. The Zila Parishad will maintain close liaison with all the organisations connected with the Defence Effort at the district level as well as the Citizens' Committee. The Zila Parishad will also enlist the support of the District Co-operative Organisation. On the basis of a clear definition of responsibilities—both of individuals and organisations—in regard to specific tasks, it will ensure implementation of a co-ordinated programme at the ground level. As a part of this process the Zila Parishad will mobilise voluntary contributions of labour by non-officials and officials of all categories as participants in the programme.

For effective co-ordination and liaison, the Zila Parishad may set up a Special Committee under the Chairmanship of the Parishad President. The Chief Executive Officer or the District Planning Officer will be the Secretary of this Committee. While the Committee will be constituted on the same lines as at the block level, it will further be ensured that all the organisations connected with civil defence and Defence Effort at the district level, find representation in it. The Committee will also maintain close liaison with the Citizens' Committee at the district level.

TRAINING

For effective mobilisation through the Village Volunteer Force, it is necessary to impart job training to different categories of personnel in certain fields viz. village defence, P. T. and mass drill, first-aid and sanitation, etc.

(Continued on page 6)

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Zila Parishads would hold meetings by 1-1-1963 :

(a) for formulation of plan of action as outlined in the scheme; and
(b) setting up of Special Committee.

Panchayat Samitis would hold meetings by 11-1-1963 :

(a) for formulation of plan of action; and
(b) setting up of Special Committee.

Village Panchayats would hold meetings by 21-1-1963 :

(a) to prepare list of programmes to be completed within the next six months;
(b) determine labour requirements for each programme; and
(c) frame proposals for formation of Task Forces and Women's Wing.

LAUNCHING OF THE PROGRAMME ON 26-1-1963.

Gram Sabhas will hold meetings throughout the country to

(i) take public pledge;
(ii) consider proposals of panchayats; and
(iii) call for subscription to Defence Labour Bank.

Village Panchayats will hold meetings to

(i) finalise programme of work;
(ii) finalise formation of Task Forces;
(iii) complete register of labour subscriptions;
(iv) allot labour for specific tasks; and
(v) appoint Dalapatis.

There will be Mass drill and P.T. The three Task Forces will start working on the ground.

SHEPHERD GIVES HIS LIFE'S SAVINGS

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

The aged couple—Dharam Singh and his wife

EVER SINCE the Chinese invasion took place on our country, many instances of self-sacrifice and dedication to the cause of national defence have come to light from all walks of life. The whole country has risen as one man demonstrating its will and determination to throw out the aggressor. The children have emptied their savings boxes, women have given away their precious ornaments and the poor people their life's savings. Hamlets even in the remotest corners have not remained untouched by this new upsurge. All this is very heartening and reassuring indeed.

Particularly moving is this act of self-sacrifice and love for the country on the part of a poor shepherd who lives in a suburb known as Shahadra, —4 miles away from Delhi. The place is also the Headquarters of a Community Development Block. Dharam Singh had heard the Prime Minister declare on the radio that the Chinese had attacked the country and that the people could help by contributing towards the National Defence Fund. That night he had a disturbed sleep. He was thinking all the time as to how he could help the country's cause. His eyes brightened up the moment he thought of the money he had saved during his life-time. He did not know how much it was. His wife had kept it hidden somewhere. Early in the morning, on getting up from the bed, he asked her to give him the money since he wanted to present the whole of it to the Prime Minister for the country's defence. She was taken aback and knew not what to say. As she stood speechless and motionless, the old shepherd remarked, "What are you thinking? Our *badshah* (King) Jawaharlal Nehru has appealed to everyone to give money in order that arms might be purchased for driving away the enemy who has attacked our country." His wife, a simple, illiterate woman could not understand all that he was telling her. In the past, it had never occurred to her to disobey him; how could she do so now when he talked of big men and big things. Therefore, without any argument she brought out the money wrapped in an old piece of cloth and passed it on to him. The old man's eyes became misty with tears of joy. He felt that after all he was not quite worthless; he was also able to do his bit in the country's hour of need.

But how to send the money to the Prime Minister ? This was his next problem. He decided to take the help of his old friend Shri Pran Nath Sarvaria, now a Municipal Councillor. Therefore, straight he went to his house and knocked at his door. Shri Sarvaria came and received him. After the usual greetings, Dharam Singh explained to him the mission for which he had come to him. "How

VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FORCE

(*Continued from page* 4)

VILLAGE DEFENCE: Training to the members of the Village Defence Force will be given under the Home Ministry's scheme. To the extent possible, S.E.Os. also will be given this training by the Civil Defence Organisation.

RIFLE TRAINING: It is desirable to impart rifle training to the Dalapatis who for this purpose will volunteer for training under the National Volunteer Rifles Scheme. The need for this training is more urgent in the border areas.

P.T. AND MASS DRILL: The Dalapati who will already have been trained by the Civil Defence Organisation in P.T. and mass drill, will conduct a regular programme of drill and physical training for all the members of the Village Volunteer Force. Wherever trained A.C.C. teachers, ex-Army and Special Police personnel are available, they will also be used for this purpose.

FIRST-AID AND SANITATION: The Dalapatis who will be trained in first-aid and sanitation by the Civil Defence Organisation, will impart this training to the members of the Village Volunteer Force. In this programme, they will be assisted by the staff of the Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centres, the Gram Sevak and Gram Sevikas' Training Centres, local doctors, sanitary staff, units of Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance etc.

*

SHEPHERD GIVES HIS LIFE'S SAVINGS

much money have you brought?" asked Shri Sarvaria. "I don't know. It is all there," replied Dharam Singh, pointing to a dirty piece of cloth he had in his hand. On counting, the money came out to be Rs. 1,433 and 10 Naya Paisa. Shri Sarvaria suggested to him to give the money to the Mayor who will pass it on to the Prime Minister. He agreed to the proposal and handed over the money to the Mayor.

When I met seventy year old Dharam Singh a few days ago, he was just going out with his herd of sheep. On my request, he sat down on his charpoy, to have a chat with me. "How did you get the inspiration to give away all your life's savings for the Defence Fund?" I inquired. He replied, "I had heard Panditji's appeal on the radio for help in men and money to drive out the enemy. Consequently, I thought of doing my bit to help our '*Badshah*' (King)." I tried to explain to him that there was no king in our country now. The people were the real masters, and its proof lay in the fact that to drive the enemy away, we needed the help of every man, woman and child of our country. In days gone by when kings ruled, it was their headache to fight the enemy, but now in democracy, everyone has to do his or her duty in order to strengthen the Government and to fight the enemy. "You are to be congratulated," I said, "for having done your duty in this hour of crisis." I further asked him, "Would it not have been better if you had kept back some money with you so that it would have been of help to you and your wife in this old age." He immediately replied, "Since we are old, we may close our eyes on this world any day. Therefore, all the more reason that I should give away immediately whatever I have for the service of the motherland. So far as our personal welfare is concerned, we have got enough for our requirements. We have five grown-up sons, all independent and settled in life. They may look after us. And even if they do not, we don't bother. God will take care of us." So saying, he took leave of me and went away with his herd.

SOLDIERS ON THE HOME-FRONT

PANCHAYAT SAMITI EMPLOYEES OFFER 5% PAY

EMPLOYEES of the Shahpura Panchayat Samiti of Jaipur district have decided to contribute 5 per cent of their pay to the National Defence Fund.

* * *

ONE DAY'S PAY EVERY MONTH

EMPLOYEES of the Jobner Panchayat Samiti in Rajasthan and 145 teachers and 46 patwaris of Lalsot Panchayat Samiti have decided to contribute their one day's pay every month.

* * *

A PRADHAN CONTRIBUTES 10% ALLOWANCES.

THE PRADHAN of the Lalsot Panchayat Samiti has decided to contribute 10 per cent of his allowance every month till the end of the Chinese aggression.

* * *

RUPEES 10 DONATED EVERY MONTH

THE PRADHAN and the Vikas Adhikari of Jhotwara (Jaipur) Panchayat Samiti in Rajasthan have each decided to donate Rs. 10 every month to the National Defence Fund till the national emergency lasts. The members and the staff of the Panchayat Samiti have decided to contribute Rs. 5 every month to this fund during the emergency period.

* * *

GRAM SEVAK TRAINEES OFFER CASH AND BLOOD

ALL THE forty trainees of the Gram Sevak Training Centre at Narsinghpur in Rajasthan have offered to donate their blood. Besides, they have also collected a sum of Rs. 150 for the National Defence Fund.

* * *

TEACHERS CONTRIBUTE ONE DAY'S SALARY

EIGHTY teachers of primary schools in Srinagar Panchayat Samiti in Rajasthan have decided to contribute their one day's salary every month till the end of the Chinese aggression. The wife of the Vikas Adhikari of Srinagar Samiti has donated one tola of gold for the National Defence Fund.

* * *

A V.L.W. DONATES WHOLE MONTH'S SALARY

SHRI MOHAN SINGH, Village Level Worker of Village Kundanpura in Sanganer Panchayat Samiti of Rajasthan handed over his entire salary of the month to the Vikas Adhikari for remittance to the National Defence Fund.

* * *

SARPANCHES OFFER TO DONATE REGULARLY

THE Sarpanch of Sapotra Gram Panchayat, Sawai Madhopur district in Rajasthan has donated Rs. 200 and will contribute Rs. 25 every month. The Sarpanch of Rodhala has also donated Rs. 90 and will contribute Rs. 15 every month.

* * *

REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEFENCE FUND

THE Zila Pramukh of Sikar Zila Parishad in Rajasthan has decided to contribute Rs. 100 per month. Shri Ram Singh, Secretary Gram Panchayat, Samerthali will contribute Rs. 10 per month while Shri Gopi Ram Patwari of Tehsil Anoopgarn will donate 10 per cent of his salary.

* * *

ONE DAY'S SALARY CONTRIBUTED

EMPLOYEES of Sujangarh and Ruphas Panchayat Samitis in Rajasthan have decided to contribute their one day's salary to the National Defence Fund.

* * *

CONTRIBUTIONS BY SARPANCHES AND OTHERS

SHRI MOHANLAL, Sarpanch of Khawaspura in Rajasthan has donated a watch and has promised to pay Rs. 15 every month for the Defence Fund. Shri Raj Jiwan of Gajsinghpura and Shri Majana Ram of Bhupalpur have promised to pay Rs. 10 and Rs. 5 respectively every month. Shri Sukh Ram Up-Pradhan, Bhupalgarh and Shri Pukh Raj Vyas have donated 1 gold ring each and Shri Hukma Ram Sarpanch 1 tola of gold.

* * *

DEVELOPMENT—THE

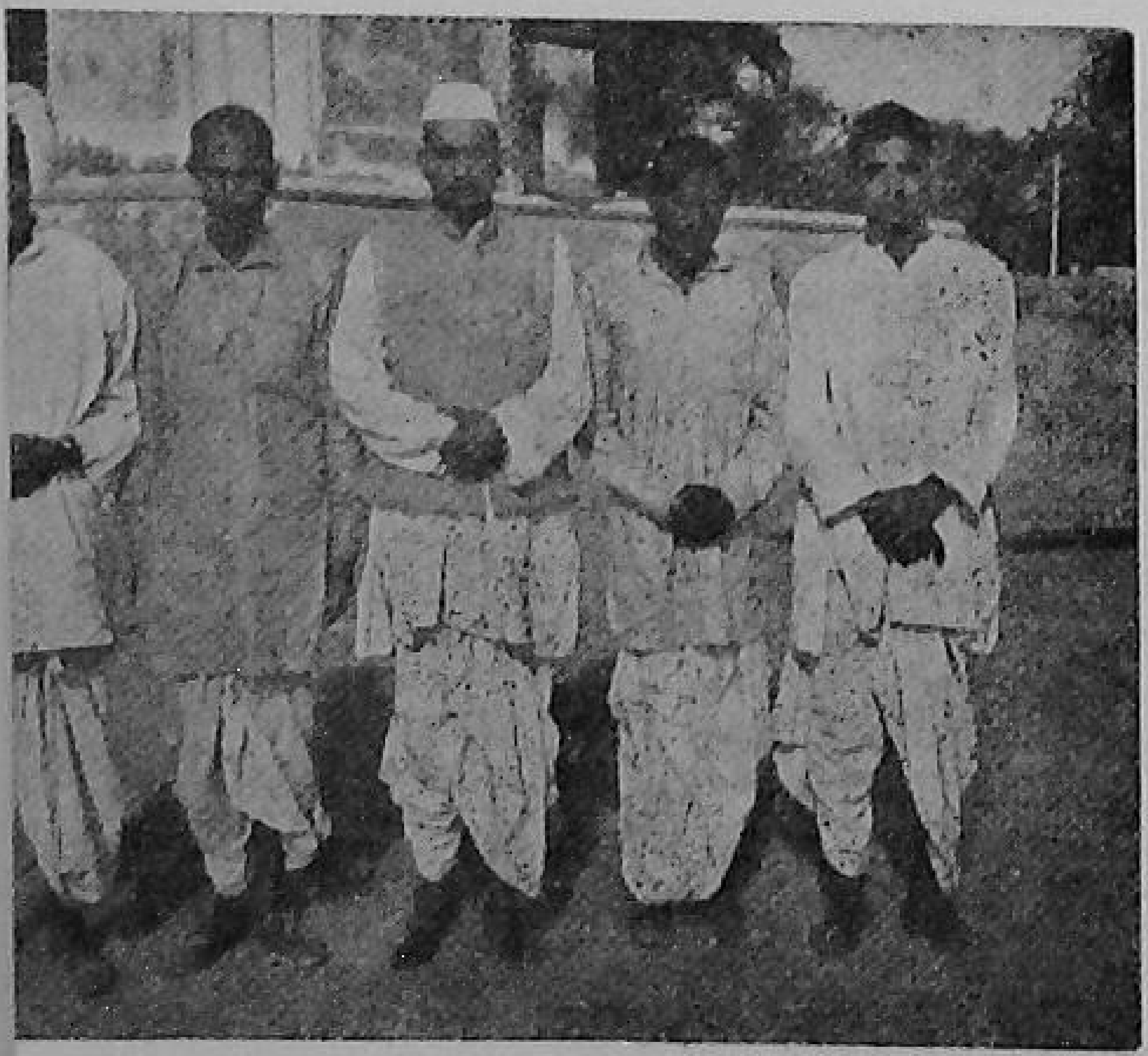
(From Our Corresp

In the wake of the unprovoked Chinese aggression on our country, there has been a spontaneous upsurge amongst our people to meet the challenge with courage and determination. Ghoga, a small village in Alipur Block, 18 miles from Delhi, typifies this spirit in every way.

GAON SABHA MEETS

The Gaon Sabha was holding its meeting to consider the ways and means to meet the menace of Chinese aggression. Shri Roshan Lal, Pradhan of the village Panchayat explained to his fellow villagers how they had been attacked by the perfidious Chinese aggressors who were intent upon grabbing our territory by force. "All the efforts of our Government to solve the border dispute peacefully have borne no fruit", he said. Continuing, he explained, "War is a horrible thing. It brings ruin and human suffering. No one knows this more than our great leader Shri Nehru. That is why he has consistently striven to keep peace not only in India but throughout the world. With the Chinese, he had gone out of his way to make them our friends. But what can one do with those who are determined to expand their territory by force? They had occupied large areas through intrusion during the last few years when talks were being conducted to settle the issue peacefully. Suddenly they threw in large army to seize our land by force. Our Jawans had been giving a determined fight to save every inch of our soil. But they had to fall back before the overwhelming numbers of the enemy."

Shri Roshan Lal Pradhan (Centre) and other members of the Panchayat



The Gaon Sabha holding its meeting to d
Chinese

Hardly had the Pradhan finished his talk when excitement and indignation ran high amongst the audience. Kure Singh got up and remarked, "What had our Government been doing all this time? Why did we not prepare ourselves militarily to meet this menance? We should have produced more weapons of defence." The Pradhan replied, "It is always easy to be wiser after the event. The primary aim of our Government had been to produce more and to raise the economic well-being of the people. This could be done

BEST DEFENCE

ndent)

cuss the national emergency caused by the ggression

only in an atmosphere of peace. If we had concentrated on producing weapons, how could we have increased our agricultural production, paved out streets, constructed the model wells and built the culverts? Where would have been the Vegetable Growers' Society and our Multi-purpose Co-operative, with its valuable stores of seeds, fertilisers, implements and the power-driven engine which performs all odd jobs of cane-crushing, cotton crushing and chaff-cutting? And could we ever have had that magnificent school building built at a cost of Rs. 12,000 ?"

MONEY AND GOLD OFFERED

Rati Ram, an ex-serviceman got up and remarked in a voice choked with emotion, "What is the use of criticising the Government now? It is the time when we should all act. Our soldiers are laying down their lives to save the motherland. I have been on the battle-field during the last two World Wars and I know what it all means for a soldier to be engaged in a deadly fight against the enemy." Pausing for a few moments, he went on to say, "Here is a Fiver for the National Defence Fund and I shall go on contributing the same every month till the emergency lasts."

This sent a wave of thrill amongst the audience. He was followed by Bhola Ram, Ram Kishan and many others each of whom contributed five rupees and offered to do the same till the emergency lasted. There was hardly any person who did not feel inspired to contribute his mite. Even Bharta Jogi, the wandering minstrel who had earlier regaled the audience to the lays of heroic exploits of 'Alha Udal', came forward and offered two rupees.

Ex-serviceman Rati Ram who was the first to volunteer the donation of Rs. 5 to the National Defence Fund every month.

The Pradhan said, "A good beginning has been made today. Let us contribute at least Rs. 1,100 on behalf of the village for the National Defence Fund." The decision was hailed loudly by everyone present. The Pradhan who is also the Secretary of the Co-operative Society, further remarked, "Our Society has helped to improve the economic life of the village to a

considerable extent. It offers Rs. 500 as its first instalment towards the country's defence efforts." The society has 14 employees working under it. Everyone came forward to donate voluntarily one day's pay towards the National Defence Fund. Hari Ram who works as a mechanic on the oil engine owned by the Society got up and remarked, "It is good that we are all contributing money for the national cause. I have already given my bit, that is Rs. 5 and one day's pay. But what is most needed at present is gold with which to buy the necessary arms and ammunition for our Jawans. Unfortunately, I have not got any gold with me except this little bit around my neck. Here, I make an offering of it for the country's common cause." So saying, he unloosened the knot from which hung a small locket and gave it to the Pradhan. Everyone appreciated this good gesture on the part of Hari Ram and cheered him loudly. This set the pace for donations of gold. Shrichand, a poor Harijan was so inspired by this example that he too came forward and made an offering of a similar locket he was wearing around his neck. Alas, there were no women present in the meeting for according to the tradition, they do not enter the chowpal where men only deliberate! Had they been present, they would have parted with some of their gold ornaments. However, it was decided that the Panchayat members would go to every family, and request the womenfolk to give them some of their ornaments. Everybody was immensely moved when a small girl, Parvati, aged ten years came running up and said, "Please take this nose-stud which is the only gold ornament I have got."

The village school teacher who was also present in the meeting stood up and said, "Our boys have contributed about one hundred rupees out of their savings for the Defence Fund. We are three teachers in the school and each one of us has offered one day's pay for the national cause." The announcement was warmly greeted by the gathering.

BLOOD DONATED

The Pradhan then got up and remarked, "Fellow villagers, you have contributed money and gold to win the war. But many more things are needed. In order to save the lives of our Jawans wounded on the battle-field, we need blood for transfusion purposes. Let us see how many of you are prepared to donate your blood." No sooner had the Pradhan finished his say than a number of young people got up and offered themselves for giving the blood. Soon a list of twenty persons was prepared on the spot. It was decided to enlist more people from the village for the purpose. Jitu, an old man of seventy who offered himself for *Raktdan* was heard saying, "If our brave sons—the Jawans can lay down their lives on the battle-field, can't we sitting at home give a few drops to save the lives of some of them." It was with some difficulty that he was persuaded not to offer his name for blood donation because the blood required was from young and healthy people between the ages of twenty to fifty years.

CIVIL DEFENCE

The Pradhan went on to explain the arrangements that were required to be made for watch and ward and civil defence purposes for which a volunteer force had to be raised. He pointed out that he had already sent the names of fifteen persons to the Police Station authorities who will provide them training for home guard. A number of smart young man stood up and shouted that they were ready to serve anywhere and would prefer to go to the front and would not return till the Chinese aggressors were driven out from the country. Passion and determination were writ large on their faces. Their only grouse was that in the city where the recruitment took place, there were long queues and their turn would not come even after waiting for a whole day. They desired that a 'Fauji Mela' be held in some nearby village where they could easily get a chance to join the army. The Pradhan promised to help them in the matter.

Here was a village well set on all Fronts to meet the defence requirements of the country,—with men, money, blood, gold, and above all food, milk and vegetables. The whole village, comprising

(*Continued on page 15*)

PT39

COMMUNITY ON THE MARCH

A SMALL VILLAGE DONATES GOLD RINGS AND BUTTONS

LAXMIPUR, a small hamlet of Panchmahals in Gujarat contributed Rs. 1,125, five gold rings and three gold buttons to the National Defence Fund.

* * *

SAVINGS EFFECTED IN A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY

BAGODRA, a village of Dholka Taluka in Ahmedabad district, effected savings of Rs. 1,001 from the festivities on the conventional "Tulsi Vivah" ceremony and contributed the amount to the National Defence Fund.

* * *

CO-OPERATIVE UNION OFFERS TO CONTRIBUTE CASH AND MILK POWDER

THE KAIRA District Milk Producers' Co-operative Union in Gujarat has decided to donate milk powder worth Rs. 1 lakh, apart from a cash donation of Rs. 1,25,000.

* * *

THE LUCKY TWENTY-SEVEN

THE RESIDENTS of a small village Loni, situated 27 miles from Khandwa town in Madhya Pradesh, have set an inspiring example of their determination to help the Government in driving the Chinese aggressors out of our sacred soil. Twenty-seven is the lucky number of the village. It contributed recently Rs. 2,700 and 27 grams of gold towards the National Defence Fund. Now, it has decided to send 27 able-bodied youths to join the army and to donate 27 'Pao' (quarter seer) of blood. Another batch of 27 persons has come forward to join the Volunteer Corps.

* * *

VILLAGERS DONATE A RUPEE EACH

THE 604 residents of the little village Toda in the shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh have donated a sum of Rs. 604 towards the National Defence Fund. A rupee was given by each villager. All the villagers have also offered to donate their blood for the Jawans.

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THE MANDAL PANCHAYAT OFFERS CONTRIBUTIONS

THE MANDAL Panchayat in Shajapur in Madhya Pradesh decided at an emergent meeting to contribute Rs. 21,000 and a day's salary of its entire staff towards the Defence Fund.

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TINY TOTS ALSO CONTRIBUTE

TINY TOTS of village Pathari in Madhya Pradesh collected Rs. 51 for National Defence Fund by staging a drama on the Chinese aggression. The Headmaster of the Shankernagar Primary School came forward with his contribution of one month's salary.

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ONE TOLA GOLD AND 100 TOLAS SILVER

ALL THE Panchayats in Jodhpur district in Rajasthan have decided to contribute 1 tola of gold and 100 tolas of silver each to strengthen the country's defence. The total number of Panchayats in the district is 348.

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VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FORCE

A FORCE of 50 to 70 thousand volunteers would be ready to face any emergency in the 361 Panchayats of Nagaur district in Rajasthan within the next few months, according to a scheme of Village Volunteer Force decided by the Nagaur Zila Parishad at one of its meetings. The scheme envisages the training of 370 chief officers in four batches in the first instance. They will in turn, impart training to about two to three hundred volunteers in each panchayat. It is proposed to complete the training of these Chief officers by the beginning of the current year.

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DEFENCE LABOUR BANK

THE DEFENCE Labour Bank is an integral part of the Village Volunteer Force Scheme. It stresses the obligation of each member of the Community and provides an institutional frame-work for their participation. It takes advantage of the present temper of the nation. A strong agricultural base is the first requisite of national defence. The Defence Labour Bank will provide a nation-wide machinery at the village level to facilitate utilisation of what millions of rural people can readily give *viz.*, labour for intensifying the drive for agricultural production and building up of community assests. It will thereby enable them to participate fully in the Defence Effort.

The Defence Labour Bank will be made up of donations of free labour at the minimum rate of one day per month by every able-bodied adult or monetary contribution in lieu. In the case of landless labourers, any excess over this minimum will be paid for at the local rates. The Panchayat will make every effort to get labour contributions from groups of people for continuous periods of ten days or more and such groups as part of the Production Task Force will be specially directed to the completion of selected tasks.

Like the Village Volunteer Force, the Defence Labour Bank will be organised on a voluntary basis. Although legislation exists in some States like Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh empowering Panchayats to levy a labour tax, the levy of such a tax is in the main permissive and can be enforced only with popular sanction. This legislation has in practice remained a dead letter. Only in Orissa a small beginning has been made. The experience is that compulsion is difficult to enforce. In any case, compulsion is undesirable in the present context. The present Emergency offers scope for launching a country-wide programme on a voluntary basis.

ORGANISATION

During the Emergency, the Gram Sabha will meet once every quarter. At the first meeting to be held on the 26th January, 1963, a tentative programme of work will be discussed and an appeal will be made to the people to donate free labour for a minimum period of 12 days in the year. A register will be opened for the purpose. The names of the donors with their offers will be entered in it. The register will be maintained by the Panchayat and prominently displayed. At subsequent meetings, the Gram Sabha will review progress of work, and in the light of labour availability in the Bank and the work programmes, take steps through the Panchayat to get increased donations as necessary.

The Panchayat will hold meetings monthly or oftener to settle the programme of work and labour donations and formulate a concrete plan of labour utilisation. The Plan will indicate the programme items to be taken up during the month, work sites and the persons to be engaged on particular days etc. The concrete plan of action for each month will figure prominently in the village. At each subsequent meeting the Panchayat will review progress of work and labour utilised and determine the programme and labour requirements. Every endeavour will be made to ensure that donations of labour are used for a continuous period so that selected items of work can be completed within a reasonable period of time. The Village Volunteer Force will be closely associated with the Panchayat in the process. It will have a special responsibility for ensuring that the tasks given are satisfactorily completed and difficulties, if any, brought to the notice of the Panchayat from time to time. While labour subscription will be obtained from as large a number of donors as possible, it will be necessary to provide that, where such contributions are not forthcoming, they can be commuted in terms of cash. Such commutation should be at least equivalent to the local daily wage rate. An account of this will be kept

in the register. For effective utilisation of the labour pool it may be necessary for every Panchayat to keep a small stock of essential implements for use by donors who do not have any of their own.

WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme of the Bank will include development of Panchayat lands for composts, vegetable and fruit cultivation, fuel plantation, pisciculture, village tanks, rural works; special schemes for increased agricultural production *viz.*, dry farming, soil conservation, minor irrigation, use of irrigation potential already created through excavation of field channels etc. In regard to these programmes, the Bank will be responsible for providing the necessary labour. These may also cover inter-Panchayat works in respect of which the Panchayat Samiti will formulate the programme and provide the necessary technical assistance. In addition, the resources of the Bank will be utilised by the Panchayat for the following purposes:

(*a*) Assistance to individual cultivators or beneficiaries of irrigation projects on request and on payment.

(b) Undertaking work on behalf of defaulting beneficiaries in regard to their customary obligations, if necessary, on the basis of deferred payment.

(c) Assistance to nearby Panchayat where possible, on payment.

(d) Any other purpose as may be decided from time to time by the Panchayat.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The accounts of the Defence Labour Bank will consist of two parts—labour account and Cash account. The cash account will include the following:—

(*a*) Monetary contributions made of commutation value paid by donors in lieu of labour.

(*b*) Such contributions as may be decided by the Panchayat from time to time from income derived from remunerative community assets built up with the assistance of the Bank.

(c) Cost of work done for individual cultivators and beneficiaries recovered from time to time.

(*d*) Remuneration received for any work done at the request of a near-by Panchayat.

(*e*) Share of Government funds provided for such schemes like minor irrigation, soil conservation, dry farming etc. In respect of these schemes, which involve a large labour component, wages at the local rate would be paid by loanees as part of the scheme. Such wages will be credited to the Defence Labour Bank in regard to labour provided by it for these schemes.

The cash in the Labour Bank whilst part and parcel of the Panchayat funds, will, however, be kept in a separate account. As the resources of the Bank increase, they will be used as a revolving fund for providing employment for productive purposes. In this way, it will be possible for the rural work programmes implemented so far on a very limited scale, to be expanded in course of time to cover the country as a whole.

THE PLEDGE

We may not be able to always succeed in what we are trying now because of various factors and overwhelming numbers of the Chinese forces but I want to take the pledge here and now we shall see this matter to the end, and the end will have to be victory for India. We are not going to tolerate this kind of invasion of India by any foreign country. This is the first war of Independent India to maintain her independence and India is not going to lose this war however long it lasts and whatever harm it may do us.

—*Jawaharlal Nehru*

HOW TO MEET THE EMERGENCY

PLAN AS PART OF DEFENCE EFFORTS

IT BECOMES essential to look at the Plan as a part, as an essential part of our effort. Therefore, any idea of giving up the Plan which some people in their short-sightedness suggest, is very wrong. It is true that we shall have to examine the Plan, stick to essentials and those things that are not essential now or which might be essential tomorrow may be slowed down somewhat. That is a matter for examination.

It is obvious, as I said that production must increase, agricultural production, industrial production. In industrial production things that are not essential may not increase; in fact may be even stopped. But those things that are essential must increase for our Defence Effort depends on them. Everything has to be judged from that point of view.

One thing on which we have laid stress repeatedly has been the co-operative movement. I think it has advanced quite considerably in the last few years. I cannot at the moment say how far it has advanced in numbers, quantity, in quality, how much, I am not in a position to say. Perhaps you know better. I think even in quality it is advancing. Anyhow this movement, looked at from the point of view of the present emergency, is a very important thing apart from its general importance. So we have to push it. The maintenance of prices, co-operative stores and co-operative movement generally is important.

There is one matter which I should like to draw your attention and consult my colleagues about it, which just struck me. We might encourage in agriculture the short-term crops immediately. Crops, anything, vegetable crops or other things like eggs. These are the necessities for troops and others. We might utilise the next three months for this short-term production.

(Extract from Prime Minister's address to the Council on 14th November, 1962).

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FARMING FOR DEFENCE

ON TOP of all this we have taken decisions to intensify our efforts at agricultural production particularly in areas under the command of irrigation works and assured rainfall and those suitable for the growth and marketing of vegetables and fruits, and upon measures for increasing supplies of meat, fish, poultry and dairy products. We also propose to organise a special drive for increased production during the next Rabi crop. The cumulative effect of all these endeavours cannot but be improved supplies of wheat, rice and other cereals, fruits and fish, all essential for the well-being of our vast population which will be engaged in the struggle in or off the field of battle and conflict.

Backed by this investment of money and scientific and administrative effort in agricultural production, I have no doubt that the farmer and the farm worker, the fisherman, the cattle owner, the milk-maid and dairy worker, the poultry breeder and the owners of orchards, vegetable farms and fruit trees will play their own part. Nevertheless, I would appeal to all of them to strive their utmost to see that they do not lag behind in the tremendous task of meeting the mighty challenge which a designing, unscrupulous and well-armed aggressor has posed to us.

(Extract from the Minister for Food and Agriculture, Shri S.K. Patil's broadcast to the nation on 12th November, 1962).

DO NOT BUY GOLD

DURING THE past few days, we have created a number of instruments such as the National Defence Fund, the National Defence Bonds and the National Defence Certificates to provide an opportunity to the people to contribute to the defence of the nation. To these instruments

we are now adding the Gold Bonds as a means of strengthening the nation's reserves of foreign exchange. Let us all contribute generously to these instruments as a token of our patriotism and duty. And let us all refrain, in particular, from buying any gold whatsoever as long as the present emergency lasts. Such immediate hardships as this might appear to entail will be more than outweighed by the gain to the nation in terms of the prosperity of the people, and the defence of the motherland.

(Extract from the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai's broadcast to the nation on 3rd November, 1962).

KEEP THE PRICES DOWN

GOVERNMENT HAVE sanctioned a scheme for building up a network of co-operatives and consumer stores, specially for the supply of essential commodities. In the first instance, in co-operation with State Governments, it is proposed to set up about 200 wholesale and central stores with about 4,000 branches and primary stores. These will cover all metropolitan cities, State Capitals, industrial centres and cities with a population of 1 lakh or more, as well as a number of other towns. Departments and agencies of Government are being asked to set up additional consumer stores for the benefit of their employees. Trade unions will be assisted in establishing consumer stores. Voluntary Organizations will also be encouraged in promoting and organising co-operative consumer stores. Arrangements will be made for making available adequate supplies of essential commodities for these stores.

It is of the utmost importance that through vigilance, both on the part of the community and the official agencies, on no account should prices be allowed to rise through hoarding, profiteering and other anti-social activities. Government have the necessary powers and will endeavour to ensure by every means possible that the requirements of defence and development and of civil consumption are met in a satisfactory manner.

(Extract from a statement by Minister of Planning, Labour and Employment, placed before the Lok Sabha on 10th November, 1962).

DEVELOPMENT—THE BEST DEFENCE

(Continued from page 10)

of its three basic institutions,—the school, the co-operative and the Panchayat had stood up as one man to cry halt to the wily enemy.

ASSET FOR WAR

Ten years ago, when I had visited this village it was steeped in poverty. Agriculture was poor and industries were non-existent. Then there was no school, no Panchayat and no Co-operative. But as a result of the Community Development Programme, it has since made tremendous alround progress. Agricultural output has almost doubled itself. Whereas previously, it had not enough milk to meet the requirements of the village itself. Today it exported 10 mds. of milk daily for sale to the city. Vegetable growing which was almost negligible at that time, has been extended to about a hundred acres. A number of new village industries like cane-crushing, gur and khandsari making, carding of cotton and chaff-cutting, have been started on co-operative basis. A metalled road, about one mile in length now joins the village to the main road. A regular transport service is being run by the co-operative. The village Panchayat has spent over Rs. 30,000 on all these developmental efforts. This village is now well set on road to economic progress and prosperity. The electrification of the village is under way. This will give further impetus to its economy. The villagers have vowed to produce more milk, vegetable and other consumer goods. This confidence in their capacity to produce more and help the defence efforts is largely derived from the economic development the village has already achieved under the Community Development Programme. Today because of its sound economy and the three basic institutions having been firmly established, it has got the potentialities to help the war efforts considerably. Ten years ago, the village would have been a liability; today it is an asset for our defence efforts.

FROM THE CENTRE

BUILDING ECONOMY THROUGH INDUSTRIES

THE DEPUTY Minister for Community Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri B. S. Murthy, has recommended the setting up of small scale industries in the Block areas in order to make our economy strong thereby helping the nation in this time of emergency. He was addressing a conference of 28 industries officers from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Tripura at Jamia Millia, Delhi. The officers who had been selected to work in the Intensive Development Projects for small industries in the rural areas were attending a 15-day course organised by the Planning Commission, Shri Murthy explained that the attack by the Chinese was not only political but also directed against our economy and morale. He advised the officers that they could take advantage of the Block Samitis for the mobilisation of resources both in men and material. In all 47 Intensive Development Projects for small industries have been provided and 92 Industries Officers are to be trained by the Planning Commission in two courses of 15 days each.

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PANCHAYATS AND NATIONAL EMERGENCY

THERE HAS been a widespread and spontaneous response by Panchayati Raj institutions to meet the present national emergency created by the Chinese invasion. However, it is felt that there is need for canalising in a systematic manner the energies and resources of the Community towards the defence efforts. Therefore, the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj, and Co-operation has suggested to the State Governments the calling of emergency meetings by the Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads to consider the various steps that should be taken by them in this connection. After the panchayats have chalked out a programme, they would call meetings of the Gram Sabhas to apprise the people of the emergency and the efforts required of them to implement the programme. The Ministry has suggested that at these meetings consideration should be given to national priorities like intensification of agricultural production to meet the needs of the armed forces as well as the civilian population, measures for economy in expenditure and increased savings. A special recommendation is the creation of a Defence Labour Bank based on the donation of free labour by every adult member of the population at the rate of at least one day in a month, or monetary contribution in lieu thereof, for the development of local community assets. It has also been pointed out that youth and women's organisations have a crucial role to play in these tasks.

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ROLE OF CO-OPERATIVES

THE SUGGESTION that the Co-operatives can and should play a vital role in the present emergency is contained in a communication by the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation addressed to all State Governments. It has been urged that the co-operative Institutions should call meetings of their members to discuss the various ways in which they could play their part in mobilising defence efforts. Special attention is to be given to the organisation of consumers' co-operatives for fair and equitable distribution of essential supplies in urban areas, mobilisation of rural savings by a special drive for collection of share capital and deposits in co-operative institutions, strengthening of service co-operatives for distributing agricultural production requisites and essential consumers' articles, linking of co-operative credit with marketing, co-operative processing of agricultural produce, promotion of labour construction co-operatives for creating employment and reducing construction costs and taking up cultivation of vegetables, fruits and poultry farming by co-operative farming societies.

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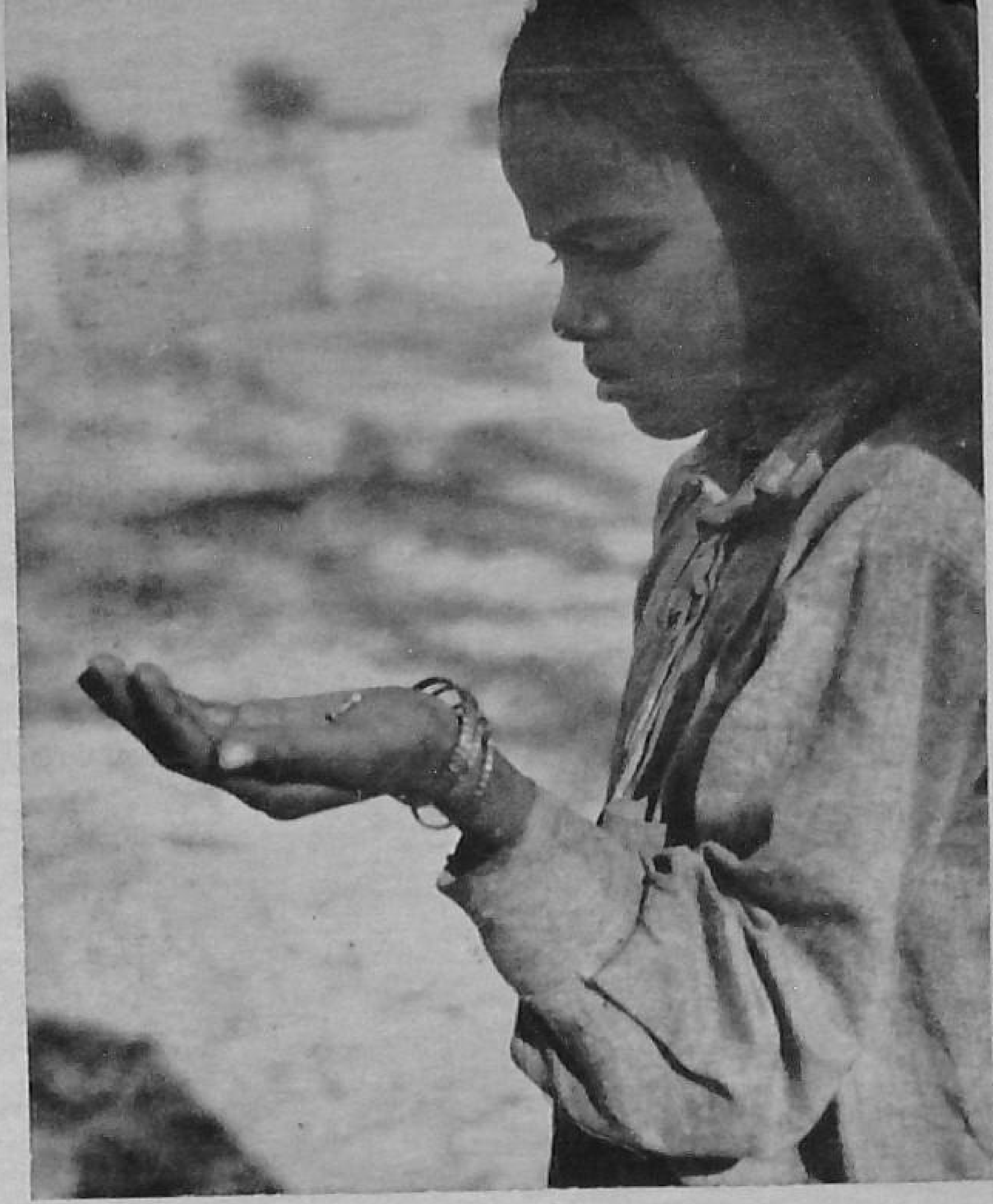
Hari Ram, mechanic employee of the Cooperative Society who in addition to his one day's salary, offered to contribute Rs. 5 every month to the Defence Fund. He also parted with the gold locket he was wearing.



Ten-year old Parvati took away her gold nose-stud and offered it to the National Defence Fund.

VILLAGE GHOGA AND ITS DEFENCE EFFORTS

The brave youth of the village who are ready not only to give a few drops of blood to save lives of others but also to join the army in order to oust the enemy.

Bharta Jogi,—a wandering minstrel of village Ghoga near Delhi, who while inspiring the audience with the tales of heroic exploits of **Alah Udal,** *became so overwhelmed himself that he donated two rupees,—his day's earning to the National Defence Fund.*

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